

LET US GET REAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM OUT ON THE FLOOR

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people and most of the Members of this Congress agree that the most important issue currently facing our country is reforming the way we finance campaigns. Earlier this year, the Senate defeated campaign finance reform when the leadership over there engaged in a filibuster. Now the leadership in this House is bringing a bill to the floor which is a complete hoax.

Here is what Common Cause has to say about the bill. "Under the Republican leadership bill, tobacco companies could continue to launder soft money through the State parties in order to influence Federal elections, as they did in 1996. And under the Republican leadership bill, medium mogul Rupert Murdoch could again run \$1 million in soft money through the California Republican party, as he did during the 1996 campaign while he was seeking favorable treatment in Washington on Federal communications legislation." He succeeded, by the way.

The great Republican Abraham Lincoln said, "You can't fool all the people all the time." Let us stop fooling around and get real campaign finance reform out here on the floor.

□ 1030

FAIRNESS FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYEES ACT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, how absurd are things in America today. Try this. Today we will vote on a bill that requires employees who work for a company to actually spend 50 percent of their daily job working for that company. You heard me. Under this legislation, if you work for Wal-Mart, you must spend half your weekly 40 hours, 20 hours a week, actually working for Wal-Mart.

Think about that. When I was a kid, my dad made me cut the grass. What would he have done if I cut half of it and then we went fishing? That would have been a lively conversation. What if you were at a restaurant and the waitress served half the people that you are eating with. Or what if a football player on a breakaway punt return crosses the 50-yard line and stops for a coffee break?

The idea is ridiculous. But listen to this. The Democrats oppose it. H.R. 3246 is not even a reality check, but a halfway measure to correct a half-baked idea that a half-brained Washington bureaucrat botched all the way.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE BILL

(Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, our guest chaplain today called upon us to find the courage to make the tough decisions before us for the sake of the American people. A timely blessing indeed, for this week we will consider campaign finance reform.

I support a bipartisan measure to reform the process. But the Republican leadership will present us with a very partisan campaign finance measure which contains some of the very worst ideas on campaign finance reform. The so-called Paycheck Protection Act is completely unbalanced and will not work. The Voter Eligibility Verification Act discriminates against voters, is deeply flawed, is not needed, will not work and has nothing to do with campaign finance reform.

The Republican bill also does nothing to ban soft money and raises contribution limits for donations to Federal candidates. This bill takes a giant step in the wrong direction. This has been called a charade, a sham. Mr. Speaker, let us vote on the real thing for the sake of the American people.

THE STATE OF NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Committee on Appropriations went forth on, quote, emergency supplementals in different areas. One was for IMF, the other was U.N., one for emergency spending, and the state of defense. Let me talk about the state of defense.

In 30 years, Mr. Speaker, our national security is the worst and the lowest I have ever seen it. We have gotten there because Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia policies set forward were not paid for. They have cost \$16 billion out of an already low defense budget. Those dollars come out of operation and maintenance of a 1950s budget.

The other problems that we have in emergency spending, we have got to find some offsets for those. It is going to be difficult in the upcoming weeks to find those offsets so we do not break the budget. Alan Greenspan has said if we break the budget caps, then the economy we have, the interest rates and everything else is going to go down. We need to work together to find those offsets, Mr. Speaker.

ALL GUNS SHOULD HAVE TRIGGER LOCKS

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and our tears and our prayers are with the families of Jonesboro, Arkansas. No parent, no child, no school

should have to suffer this way. I beg every parent with a gun in the home and every gun manufacturer to please, please listen.

There are two ways that children get a gun. They either take it from their home without their parents' knowledge or they steal it from a neighbor. You lock your car. You lock your home. You should lock your gun. Every gun should be sold with a childproof trigger safety lock that only the parents know how to unlock.

A borrowed gun, a stolen gun should be a harmless gun. Please, make your gun useless to others. Make it harmless with a trigger lock. I am asking every parent who owns a gun to purchase a trigger lock today and make your gun safe. I am asking all gun manufacturers to include a trigger lock with every gun sale.

SUPPORT SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BILL

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to join me to pass legislation to build new schools for all of education and for all of our children. Yesterday I taught a class to a group of sixth graders in Terrell Lane Middle School in Louisburg in my district. It was part of my Give a Teacher a Break program.

As superintendent for 8 years of my State schools, I know I probably have spent more time in public schools than any other Member of this Congress. I know what it takes to improve education for our children.

Mr. Speaker, we must make the investment necessary to strengthen our public schools. We must provide resources to assist our communities in the drowning enrollment growth they are facing. And we must have the foresight to target these funds to the areas that we know will experience tremendous growth of the baby boom echo in the near future. I am drafting school construction legislation that will accomplish these goals. My bill will provide \$7.2 billion in school construction for States and communities that are growing. My bill will be paid for by the same offset others would use to finance their risky private school voucher scheme.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM SCAM

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, here is what the New York Times has to say about the campaign finance reform bill Republicans will bring to the House floor this week: "Newt Gingrich has a plan to snooker Americans yearning for a cleanup of their corrupt election finance system."